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This article is based on time periods in China. For other uses, see Three Kingdoms (disambiguation). The interval of the period of the Three Kingdoms era of Chinese history (220–280 AD), in which most of China was divided into Wei, Shu-Han, and Wu kingdoms Three Kingdoms Chinese name Traditional Chinese三古Simplified Chinese三国Hanyu PinyinSānguó Literal meaningthree statesTranscriptionsStandard MandarinHanyu PinyinSānguóBopomofoム马《メごGwoyeu RomatzyhSangwoWade-GilesSan1 kuo2Tongyong PinyinSanguóYale RomanizationSāngwóIPA[sán.kws]WuRomanizationSkueYue: CantoneseYale RomanizationSāamgwokJyutpingSaam1gwok3IPA [sáːm.kwɔ̄ːk̄]Vietnamese NameVietnametam QucHán-Nôm三氧Korean nameHangul-Hanja三和TranscriptionsRevised RomanizationSamguk Japanese NameHiragana氧〈Kyūjitai三和Shinjitai三国 TranscriptionsRomanizationSangoku Three Kingdoms period NameChineseTraditional China三弘Simplified Chinese三国弘TranscriptionsStandard MandarinHanyu PinyinSānguó ShídàiBopomofoム马《メごアンカチ)Gwoyeu RomatzyhSangwo ShyrdayWade-GilesSan1-kuo2 Shih2-tai4Tongyong PinvinSanguó ShíhdàiYale RomanizationSāngwó ShŕdàilPA[sán.kwŏ sǐ.tâi]WuRomanizationSẽ-kue? sy-deYue: CantoneseYale RomanizationSāamgwok SìhdoihJyutpingSaam1gwok3 Si4doi6IPA[sáːm.kwōːk sìː.tòːy]Vietnamese nameVietnameseTam Quốc thời đạiHán-Nôm三國時代Korean nameHangul삼 국 시대Hania三國時代Japanese nameHiraganaさんごくじだいKyūjitai三国時代Shinjitai三国時代Shinjitai三国時代TranscriptionsRomanizationSangokujidai History of China ANCIENT Neolithic c. 8500 – c. 2070 BCE Xia c. 2070 – c. 1600 BCE Shang c. 1600 – c. 1046 BCE Zhou c. 1046 – 256 BCE Western Zhou Eastern Zhou Spring and Autumn Warring States IMPERIAL Qin 221–207 BCE Han 202 BCE – 220 CE Western Han Tiga Kerajaan 220– 280 Wei, Shu and Wu Jin 266–420 West Genie Sixteen Kingdoms of Northern and Southern Dynasties 420–589 Sui 581–618 Tang 618–907 (Wu Zhou 690-705) Five Dynasties and KingdomsTen 907-979 Liao 916-11125 Song 96 North Xia South Song Liao Yuan 1271-1368 Ming 1368-1912 Modern Republic of China on the mainland 1912-1949 China 1949-present Republic of China on Taiwan 1949-present Historical article China of the Dynasty of Chinese history in the history of China History of art history of economics History of economics History of legal history of legal history Media military history Military history Women in ancient China and the Chinese empire viewtalkedit Three Kingdoms (simplified China: 三国貽; traditional Chinese: 三貽買; pinyin: Sānguó Shídài) from 220 280 AD is a Chinese tripartite division between the states of Wei, Shu, and Wu. [1] The Three Kingdoms period began with the end of the Han dynasty and was followed by the Jin dynasty. The short-lived Kingdom of Yan on the Liaodong Peninsula, which lasted from 237 to 238, is sometimes considered the 4th kingdom. [2] To distinguish three states from other historical Chinese countries of the same name, historians have added relevant characters to the country's real name: the country that calls itself Wei (魏) is also known as Cao Wei (魏魏),[3] the state that calls itself Han (吳吳) also known as Shu Han (蜀古) or simply Shu (蜀), and the country that calls itself Wu (吳) is also known as East Wu (東吳). Dōng Wú) or Sun Wu (孫吳). Academically, the Three Kingdoms period refers to the period between the basis of the Wei state in AD 220 and the conquest of Wu state by the Jin dynasty in 280. The previous, unofficial part of the period, from 184 to 220, was marked by chaotic clashes between warlords (買阀) in different parts of China. The central part of the period, from 220 to 263, was marked by a more stable arrangement between the three rival countries of Wei, Shu, and Wu. Later parts of that era were marked by the seizure of Wei by the Jin dynasty (265), and the conquest of Wu by Jin (280). The Period of the Three Kingdoms was one of the bloodiest in Chinese history. [4] The national census taken in AD 280, following the reunification of the Three Kingdoms under Jin showed a total of 2,459,840 households and 16,163,863 individuals of only a fraction of the 10,677,960 households, and 56,486,856 individuals reported during the Han era. [5] Although the census may not be particularly accurate due to many factors of the era, In 280, Jin made efforts to account for all individuals where they could. [6] Technology advanced significantly during this period. Chancellor Shu Zhuge Liang discovered the wood ox, suggested to be the initial shape of the wheelbarrow, [7] and improved on repeated bows. [8] Mechanical engineer Wei Ma Jun is considered by many to be on par with his predecessor Zhang Heng. [9] He created a hydraulic-powered mechanical puppet theater designed for emperor Ming of Wei, a square pallet chain pump for garden irrigation in Luoyang, and an ingenious design of a south-pointed, non-magnetic directional compass operated by differential gears. [10] Although relatively brief, this period of history has been heavily romanticized in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese cultures. [11] The film has been celebrated and popularized in opera, folklore, novels, and in more recent times, film, television, and video games. The best known of these is Luo Guanzhong's Romance of the Three Kingdoms period. [12] The authoritative historical record of the era was Chen Shou's Records of the Three Kingdoms, along with later Pei Songzhi text annotations. The English term Three Kingdoms is a misunderstanding, as every state is eventually ruled not by a king, but by an emperor who claims suzerainty over all of China. [13] However, the term Three Kingdoms has become standard among English-speaking synologists. Periodization See also: Timeline of the Three Kingdoms, or independent states, existed only from 229 with the proclamation of the ruler of East Wu as emperor until the fall of Shu Han in 263 Another interpretation of this period is that it began with the decline of the Han royal house. According to Mao Zonggang, a commentary on Chapter 120 of the novel: Three kingdoms were formed when the Han royal house declined. The Han royal house refused when eunuchs abused the sovereign and officials toppled the government. [14] Mao Zonggang points out that the historiography of the Three Kingdoms began with the rise of the Ten Eunuchs. He further argues that the Romance of the Three Kingdoms defines the end of the era as 280, wu's downfall, justifying: When the novel focuses on Han, it could end with the fall of Han. But Wei took Han. To end the story before han allies fall will leave the reader with an incomplete picture. So the story must end with wu's fall. [14] Several other starting points for this period were given by Chinese historians; during the last years of the Han dynasty, such as the Yellow Turban Rebellion in 184; [16] the year after the beginning of the rebellion. 185; [17] Dong Zhuo dethposed Emperor Shao of Han and overtoened Emperor Xian of Han in 189; [19] Dong Zhuo fired Luoyang and moved the capital to Chang'an in 1909; [20] or Cao Cao placed the emperor under his control in Xuchang in 196. [21][22][23][24][25] History See also: Military history of the Three Yellow Turban Rebellion Kingdoms Main article: Map of the Yellow Turban Rebellion of The Province of China in the prelude to the Han dynasty period, 189 AD). Map showing the Yellow Turban Rebellion in the Eastern Han Dynasty of China. The power of the Eastern Han dynasty was depressed and continued to decline from various political and economic problems after the death of Emperor He in 105 AD. de facto is often rested by older relatives. Because these relatives sometimes hated to cede their influence, the emperor would, upon reaching maturity, be forced to rely on political alliances with senior officials and eunuchs to achieve government control. Political posturing and infighting between imperial relatives and eunuch officials was a constant problem in Chinese government at the time. [26] During the reigns of Emperor Huan (reigning the reigns) of Emperor Huan (reigning the reigns) of Emperor Huan (reigning the reigns). 146–168) and Emperor Ling (reigning 168–189), the dissatisfaction of leading officials to the eunuch's power struggle reached a peak, and many began to publicly protest against them. The first and second protests were met with failure, and court eunuchs persuaded the emperor to execute many of the protesting clerics. Some local rulers seized the opportunity to exert despotic control over the land and their citizens, as many were afraid to speak in an oppressive political climate. The reign of Emperors Huan and Ling was recorded as a very dark period in han dynasty rule. In addition to political repression and mismanagement, China experienced a number of natural disasters during this period, and local uprisings sprung up across the country. In the third month of 184, Zhang Jiao, leader of the Way of Supreme Peace, a Taoist movement, along with his two brothers Zhang Liang and Zhang Bao, led followers of the movement in a rebellion against the government called the Yellow Turban Rebellion. Their movement quickly attracted followers and soon numbered several hundred thousand and received support from many parts of China. They have 36 bases throughout China, with large bases having 10,000 followers or more and small bases having 6,000 to 7,000, similar to Han soldiers. Their motto is: Firmamen[a] have perished, the Yellow Sky will soon rise; in this jiazi year, let there be prosperity in the world! (蒼天已死,黃天當立。 歲在甲子,天下大吉。 [c] Emperor Ling sent generals Huangfu Song, Lu Zhi, and Zhu Jun to lead the Han forces against the rebels, and decided that the local government should supply the army to assist their efforts. It is at this point that the historical novel Romance of the Three Kingdoms begins its narrative. The Yellow Turban was eventually defeated and its surviving followers scattered throughout China, but due to the turbulent situation throughout the empire, many were able to survive as bandits in mountainous areas, thus continuing their ability to contribute to the turmoil of the era. With the rise of bandits throughout the Chinese state, the Han army has no way of expelling each and every attacking side. In 188, Emperor Ling received a warning from Liu Yan suggesting he give direct administrative power over the feudal province and direct regional military command to the governor and promote them in the rank and fill those positions by Liu's family or court officials. The move made the province an official administrative unit, and although they had the power to fight the insurgency, intra-government turmoil then allowed these local governors to easily rule independently of the central government. Liu Yan was also promoted to governor of Yi Province. Soon after this move, Liu Yan severed all of his territorial ties with the Han imperial court, and several other regions followed the lawsuit. Dong Zhuo came to power In the same year, Emperor Ling died, and another struggle began between court eunuchs for control of the imperial family. Court eunuch Jian Shuo planned to kill Regent Marshal He Jin, a relative of the imperial family, and to replace crown prince Liu Bian with his younger brother Liu Xie, Prince Chenliu (in kaifeng today), although his plans were unsuccessful. Liu Bian took the han throne as Emperor Shao, and He Jin plotted with warlord Yuan Shao to kill the Ten Officers, a group of twelve eunuchs led by Zhang Rang who controlled most of the imperial court. He also ordered Dong Zhuo, the border general in Liang Province, and Ding Yuan, Bing Provincial Inspector, [e] to bring troops to the capital to strengthen his authority position. The eunuchs knew of He Jin's plot, and killed him before Dong Zhuo reached the capital Luoyang. When Yuan Shao's forces reached Luoyang, they stormed the palace complex, killing ten officers and 2,000 eunuch supporters. Although the move effectively ended a century-long feud between the eunuchs and the imperial family, the event prompted Dong Zhuo's invitation to the luoyang suburbs of China's northwestern border. On the night of September 24, 189, General Dong Zhuo observed that Luoyang was burned —as a result of a power struggle between the eunuchs and the civil service —and ordered his troops to advance to bring down the disturbance. [27] When the emperor had lost the rest of his military or political power, Dong Zhuo seized de facto control of the government located in Luoyang. [27] On September 28, Dong Zhuo deposed Liu Bian from the Throne of the Han Empire in favor of Liu Xie. [27] In the weeks that followed, rebellions broke out across China. [28] In East China, in an effort to restore Han power, the grand coalition against Dong Zhuo began to increase, with leaders such as Yuan Shao, Yuan Shu, and Cao Cao. [28] Many provincial officials were forced to join or eliminate risks. [29] In 191, Sun Jian (Yuan Shu's subordinate) led an army against Dong Zhuo and drove him from Luoyang to Chang'an. [30] The following year (192), Lü Bu, Dong Zhuo's former bodyguard, killed Dong Zhuo. [29] It is said that Dong Zhuo's body was thrown into the street with the wick lit in the sea, which seems to be burned with the same solar brilliance. [31] The collapse of the Warlords ruled in the coalition, with a few exceptions, sought increased personal military power in times of instability instead of seriously seeking to restore han dynastic authority. The Han Empire was divided between a number of regional warlords. As a result of the total collapse of the central government and eastern alliances, the Northern China Plains fell into war and anarchy with many competitors vying for success or survival. [29] Emperor Xian fell to various warlords in Chang'an. Dong Zhuo, confident of his success, was killed by his follower Lü Bu, who plotted with minister Wang Yun. Lü Bu, in turn, was attacked by former officers Dong Zhuo: Li Jue, Guo Si, Zhang Ji and Fan Chou. Wang Yun and his entire family were executed. Lü Bu fled to Zhang Yang, a northern warlord, and remained with him for a while before joining Yuan Shao, but it was clear that Lü Bu was too independent to serve the others. Yuan Shao operates from the city of Ye in Ji Province, extending its power north of the Yellow River. [29] Han Fu was previously governor of Ji Province, but he was under yuan Shao's control and was succeeded by him. [30] Between the Yellow and Huai rivers, conflicts have erupted between Yuan Shu, Cao Cao, Tao Qian (Governor of Xu Province) and Lü Bu. [29] Cao Cao forced the Yellow Turban to surrender in 192,[32] driving Yuan Shu south of huai river in 193,[29] inflicting destruction on Tao Qian in 1 94,[30] accepting the surrender of Liu Bei (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194,[30] accepting liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 1944 [30] accepting the surrender of Liu Bei (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepted liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194, [30] accepting Liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under accepted the surrender of Liu Bei (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194,[30] accepting the surrender of Liu Bei (later a commander under Tao Qian) in 194,[30] accepted liu Bei's surrender (later a commander under Tao Oian) in 194,[33] and captured and executed Lü Bu in 198, [33] Cao is now in complete control of the Northern Du took control of the Liaodong Peninsula and its surroundings, where it had established a state, [34] He was replaced by Gongsun Kang in 204. [34] In the north across the border, since the fall of imperial control, the region became chaotic when the remnants of the Xiongnu were at odds with Xianbei. [34] Goguryeo was attacked by warlord Gongsun Kang in 204, resulting in Commander Daifang. In 209, Kang invaded Goguryeo again, taking the capital of Goguryeo and forcing them to submit. Goguryeo was forced to move its capital further east. [35] In Liang Province (now Gansu), an uprising erupted in 184. [34] To the west, Liu Yan has been Governor of Yi Province since his appointment in 188. [36] He was succeeded by his son Liu Zhang in 1944. [36] Just north of Liu Zhang's region, Zhang Lu (leader of the Five Pecks of Rice) led an anocratist rule in hanzhong command (on the upper Han River). [37] Liu Biao took control of his province as Governor Province. [37] Sun Quan took control of the lower

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Yangtze. [37] Xu and Yan Provinces In 194, Cao Cao fought with Tao Qian of Xu Province, because Taoist Zhang Kai's subordinates had killed Cao Cao's father, Cao Song. Tao Qian received support from Liu Bei and Gongsun Zan, but even then it seemed as if Cao Cao's superior army would invade Xu
Province completely. Cao Cao received word that Lü Bu had seized Yan Province in his absence, and so he withdrew, stopping hostilities with Tao Qian for now. Tao Qian for now
Lü Bu fled to Xu Province and was accepted by Liu Bei, and an alliance that did not easily begin between the two. After that, Lü Bu betrayed Liu Bei and seized Xu Province, forming an alliance with Yuan Shu's remnants. Liu Bei, along with his followers Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, fled to Cao Cao, who
received it. Soon, preparations were made for an attack on Lü Bu, and the combined forces of Cao Cao and Liu Bei invaded Xu Province. Lü Bu's men abandoned him, Yuan Shu's army never arrived as reinforcements, and he was bound by his own subordinates Song Xian (宋 A.D.) and Wei Xu (魏續)
and was executed on cao Cao's orders. Huai River Main Article: Campaign against Yuan Shu, after being pushed south in 193, established itself in its new capital Shouchun (now Anhui). [33] He sought to regain lost territory north of the Huai River. [33] In 197, Yuan Shu declared himself
emperor of his own dynasty. [33] The move was a strategic blunder, as it attracted many warlords throughout the country, including Yuan Shu's own subordinates who almost all his allies and followers, he was killed in 1999. [38] The fate of Emperor Xian in
August 195, Emperor Xian fled Li Jue's tyranny in Chang'an and made a year-long perishable journey east in search of support. In 196, Emperor Xian came under the protection and control of Cao Cao after he managed to escape from the Chang'an warlords. [38] Establishing an imperial court in Xuchang
in Henan, Cao Cao—now in de facto control—strictly followed the formalities of the court and justified his actions as Han's loyal minister. [38] By then, most of the smaller contenders for power had been absorbed by the larger or destroyed. This was a very important step for Cao Cao following the advice
of his chief advisor, Xun Yu, commenting that by supporting an authentic emperor, Cao Cao would have formal legal power to control other warlords forced them to obey him to restore the Han dynasty. North China's Plain Cao Cao, whose control zone was a precursor to the Cao Wei state, had raised an
army in 189. In some strategic movements and he controlled Yan Province and defeated several rebel factions of the Yellow Turban. This led him to get help from other local militaries controlled by Zhang Miao and Chen Gong, who joined his goal of creating his first sle seen army. He continued that effort
and absorbed some 300,000 Yellow Turban rebels into his army as well as a number of clan-based military groups from the eastern side of Qing Province. Since 192, He developed a military agricultural colony (tuntian) to support his troops. Although the system imposes heavy taxes on hired civilian
farmers (40% to 60% of agricultural production), farmers are more than happy to be able to work with relative stability and professional military protection in times of chaos. This was then said to be the second important policy for success. In 200, Dong Cheng, a relative of the empire, received a secret
decree from The Xian Emperor to kill Cao Cao. He collaborated with Liu Bei in this effort, but Cao Cao soon found out about the plot and his conspirators executed, with only Liu Bei surviving and fleeing to join Yuan Shao in the north. After completing nearby provinces, including an
uprising led by the former Yellow Turban, and internal affairs with the court, Cao Cao turned his attention north to Yuan Shao, who himself had eliminated his northern rival Gongsun Zan in the same year. Yuan Shao, himself a nobleman higher than Cao Cao, gathered a large army and camped along the
northern bank of the Yellow River. In the summer of 200, after months of preparation, Cao Cao and Yuan Shao's troops clashed at the Battle of Guandu (near the current Kaifeng). [38] Cao Cao's army was outnumbered by Yuan Shao. [38] Due to the raids on Yuan's supply train, Yuan's troops fell into dis
decline as they fled back north. [38] Cao Cao took advantage of Yuan Shao's death in 202, which resulted in a split between his sons, and advanced north. [38] In 204, after the Battle of Ye, Cao Cao captured the city of Ye. [38] In late 207, after an out-of-border victory campaign against Wuhuan
culminated in the Battle of White Wolf Mountain, Cao Cao achieved complete dominance of the Northern China, including the former Yuan Shao region, and half of China's population. [34] In the Yangtze South in 193, Huang Zu led Liu Biao's forces in a
campaign against Sun Jian (subordinate to General Yuan Shu) and killed him. [40] In 194, 18-year-old Sun Ce came to military service under Yuan Shu. [37] He was given command of several troops previously commanded by his late father Sun Jian. [37] In the south, he defeated wars of Yang Province.
including Liu Yao, Wang Lang, and Yan Baihu. [Citation needed] In 198, 23-year-old Sun Ce declared his independence from Yuan Shu who had recently declared himself emperor. [37] He holds the top commanders Danyang, Wu, and Kuaiji (from Nanjing currently to Hangzhou Bay and several outposts
on the Fujian coast), while expanding westwards in a series of campaigns. [37] In 200, he conquered the commands of Yuzhang (currently Poyang Lake in Jiangxi) and Lujiang (north of the Yangtze). [37] In 200, Sun Ce was ambushed and killed by a former rival retainer who was defeated by Wu. [40]
Sun Quan (aged 18) succeeded him and quickly established his authority. [40] By 203, it was expanding westwards. [40] In 208, Sun Quan defeated Huang Zu (Liu Biao's subordinate commander) around wuhan today. [40] He is now in control of areas south of the Yangtze (under Wuhan, poyang region,
and Hangzhou Bay). [40] His navy established a local superiority over the Yangtze. [40] Nevertheless, he would soon be under threat from Cao Cao's larger army. [40] Jing Province During Dong Zhuo's reign of Han rule, Liu Biao was appointed Governor of Jing Province. [40] It is located around its
capital Xiangyang and the area to the south around the Han and Yangtze Rivers. [40] Outside its eastern border is the Sun Quan region. [40] In 200, during the campaign around Guandu between Cao Cao and Yuan Shao, Liu Bei's forces were defeated by a detachment of Cao Cao's forces, forcing Liu
Bei to flee and seek refuge with Liu Biao in Jing Province. [41] In this exile, Liu Bei retained his accompanying followers and made new connections in Liu Biao's entourage. [41] It was during this time that Liu Bei also met Zhuge Liang. [41] In the fall of 208, Liu Biao died and was succeeded by his
youngest son Liu Cong over Liu Qi's eldest son through political maneuvering. [40] Liu Bei had become the head of the opposition to surrender when Cao Cao's forces marched south to Jing. [41] After advice from his supporters, Liu Cong surrendered to Cao Cao. [40] Cao Cao took over the province and
began appointing scholars and officials from Liu Biao's court to the local government. [40] Meanwhile, Liu Oi had joined Liu Bei to build a defensive line on the Yangtze River against surrender to Cao Cao, but they suffered defeat at the hands of Cao Cao. [42] After that, they retreated and sought support
from Sun Quan. [40] Guan Yu (Liu Bei's subordinate lieutenant) had successfully taken most of Jing Province's fleet from the Han River. [40] Cao Cao occupied the naval base at Jiangling on the Yangtze River. [40] He will now begin continuing eastwards towards Sun Quan with his army and new fleet,
while sending envoys to demand Sun Quan's surrender. [43] Battle of the Red Cliffs Main article: Battle of the Red Cliffs In 208, Cao Cao marched south with his troops to quickly unite the empire. Liu Biao Liu Cong's son handed over Jing Province and Cao was able to capture a sizeable large in Jiangling.
Sun Quan, Sun Ce's successor in the lower Yangtze, continues to resist. His advisor Lu Su secured an alliance with Liu Bei, himself a recent refugee from the north, and Zhou Yu was stationed as Sun Quan's naval commander, along with a veteran general serving the Sun family, Cheng Pu. Their
combined force of 50,000 filled Cao Cao's fleet and 200,000 strong troops on the Red Cliffs that winter. After the initial battle, the attack began with a plan to burn Cao Cao's fleet set in motion to lead to Cao Cao's fleet set in motion to lead to Cao Cao's fleet and 200,000 strong troops on the Red Cliffs
ensured the survival of Liu Bei and Sun Quan, and provided the basis for shu and wu states. The last years of the dynasty and commanders in the penultimate year of the Han dynasty (219 AD) In 209, Zhou Yu captured Jiangling, establishing complete dominance south over the Yangtze River. [43]
Meanwhile, Liu Bei and his chief advisor Zhuge Liang captured the commander of the Xiang River basin, establishing control over it after Zhou
Yu's death in 210. [44] In 211, Cao Cao defeated a coalition of warlords in the Wei valley, which ended in the Battle of Huayin, seizing territory around Chang'an. [44] In 211, Liu Bei received an invitation from Liu Zhang to come to Yi Province to help the latter counter the threat from the north, namely
Zhang Lu of Hanzhong. [45] Liu Bei met people in Liu Zhang's court who hoped that he would succeed Liu Zhang as ruler of Yi Province. [45] A year after his arrival, Liu Bei conflicted with Liu Zhang and turned against him. [45] In the summer of 214, Liu Bei accepted Liu Zhang's surrender, seized Yi
Province, and established his regime in Chengdu. [45] In 215, Cao Cao captured Hanzhong after attacking and accepting Zhang Lu's surrender. [46] The conquest threatened Liu Bei's territory, which lies directly to
the south. [46] Cao Cao further enhanced his title and power under emperor Xian's puppet. He became Chancellor in 208, Duke of Wei in 217. [47] He also forced Sun Quan to accept suzerainty to Wei, but it had no real effect in practice. [47] After Liu Bei captured Yi Province from
Liu Zhang in 214, Sun Quan—who had been involved with Cao Cao in the southeast between the Huai and Yangtze rivers during the intervening years—turned his attention to the central Yangtze. [44] Cao Cao and Sun Quan were unable to solve the each other. [44] Liu Fu, an administrator under Cao
Cao, has established a farm in Hefei and Shouchun to defend cao territory near the Huai river. [44] Sun Quan resented the fact that Liu Bei, a weaker ally, had gained so much territory in his west and demanded a larger share of the Xiang River watershed. [44] In 215, Lü Meng (Officer Sun Quan) was
sent to arrest the southern commander of Jing province, but Guan Yu (general Liu Bei) launched a counterattack. [44] Later that year, Liu Bei and Sun Quan reached a settlement that the Xiang River would serve as a border between their territories. [44] To the south, Sun Quan has sent He Qin, Lu Xun,
and others to expand and conquer areas in the southern Provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian. [44] In 219, Liu Bei captured Hanzhong by defeating and killing General Xiahou Yuan, who served Cao Cao. [47] Cao Cao sent reinforcements in a failed attempt to retake the territory. [47] Liu Bei has now secured
his territory in the north and declared himself King of Hanzhong. [47] To the east, Sun Quan attempts to capture Hefei from Cao Cao, but he is unsuccessful. [47] While Lu Su had been the commander-in-chief for Sun Quan in Jing Province, their policy was to maintain an alliance with Liu Bei while Cao
Cao remained a threat. [48] This changed when Sun Quan appointed Lü Meng when Lu Su died in 217. [48] In 219, Guan Yu sailed from Jiangling to han river to Fan city (near Xianyang), but was unable to capture him. [49] In the fall of 219, Lü Meng launched a surprise attack by sailing towards the
Yangtze towards Jiangling, resulting in his capture. [48] Guan Yu was unable to hold his position because most of his troops surrendered and executed on the orders of Sun Quan. Cao Cao regains the Han valley, while Sun Quan seizes all the territory east of yangtze canyon. [48]
The emergence of three bronze turtle kingdoms holding cups, Wu Timur In early 220, Cao Cao died and was succeeded by his son Cao Pi. [48] On December 11, Emperor Xian abdicated and Cao Pi ascended the imperial throne by declaring a heavenly mandate as Emperor Wei. [48] On May 15, 221,
Liu Bei responded by declaring himself Emperor Han. [48] The country is commonly known as Shu Han. [48] Sun Quan continued to confess his suzerainty de jure to Wei and was king of Wu. [48] In late 221, Shu invaded Wu in response to Guan Yu's assassination and Wu's disappearance. [48] In the
spring of 222. Liu Bei arrived on the scene to personally take command of the invasion. [48] Sun Quan sends Lu Xun to lead Wu's defense against the advice of his subordinates, Lu Xun waited until Liu Bei committed along the Yangtze under the Canyon [48] Finally, in the sixth
month of 222, Lu Xun launched a series of fire attacks on Liu Bei's extended position wing which led to in Shu's army and Liu Bei perished in Baidi (near the current Fengjie). [50] After that in 222, Sun Quan left his suzerainty to Wei and declared Wu's independence. [51] In 223, Liu Bei perished in Baidi
[52] Zhuge Liang now acts as regent for Liu Shan (aged 17) and is in control of Shu's government. [53] Shu and Wu continued their diplomatic relations by re-establishing peace and alliance in the winter of 223. [54] On June 23, 229, Sun Quan declared himself Emperor Wu. [55] Shu controls the upper
Han valley and the area to the west of the Yangtze Gorge. [56] The Qinling Mountains divide Shu and Wei. [56] Wei took control of the Wei and Huai valleys, where agricultural garrisons were erected in Shouchun and Hefei to defend Huai. [56] Wu's military sorting against Hefei and Shouchun would
consistently end in failure, thus confirming Wei's detention of Huai. [56] Wu controlled all the Yangtze valleys. [56] The area between Huai and the Yangtze is a remote area, where a largely static border between Wei and Wu has formed in the lower Han valley. [56] The three articles Shu Main: Shu Han
See also: Zhuge Liang's Southern Campaign and Zhuge Liang's Northern Expedition Map showing the Battle of Yiling between the Shu Han and Wu kingdoms. In 223, Liu Shan ascended the throne of Shu following the defeat and death of his father. From 224 to 225, during the campaign to the south,
Zhuge Liang conquered the southern region to Lake Dian in Yunnan. [53] In 227, Zhuge Liang moved his main Shu army to Hanzhong, and opened the battle for the northwest with Wei. The following year, he ordered Zhao Yun to attack from Ji Gorge as a diversion while Zhuge himself led the main army
to Qi Mountain. Ma Su's front row suffered a tactical defeat in Jieting and Shu's army was forced to retreat. In the next six years Zhuge Liang tried several more attacks, but supply problems limited the capacity for success. In 234, he led his last northern offensive, reaching the Battle of Wuzhang Plain
south of the Wei River. Due to the death of Zhuge Liang in 234, Shu's army was forced once again to retreat, but was pursued by Wei. Shu's forces began to withdraw; Sima Yi concluded Zhuge Liang's death and ordered an attack. Shu strikes back immediately, causing Sima Yi to second guess and
allowing Shu to successfully retreat. Wu Main article: Wu Zhuge Liang's Southern East Sun Quan campaign turned to aboriginal people in the southeast, collectively called Shanyue. The group's success against the rebels culminated in 224 victories. That year, Zhuge Ke ended danyang's three-year siege
with the surrender of 100,000 Shanyue. Of these, 40,000 were structured as wu army assistants. While Shu also had problems with the indigenous tribes in their south. Tje Tje The Nanmans rose up in rebellion against Shu's authority, seizing and looting cities in Yi Province. Zhuge Liang, acknowledging
the importance of stability in the south, ordered the advance of Shu's army in three columns against Nanman. He fought a number of engagements against chief Meng Huo, at the end of Meng Huo sproposal. A tribe was allowed to stay in the Shu capital Chengdu as officials and Nanman formed their own
battalion in shu's army. Zhuge Liang's first and second northern expeditions against Cao Wei Zhuge Liang's fourth and fifth northern expeditions against Cao Wei During zhuge liang's northern offensive, Wu state always defended against invasion
from the north. The area around Hefei was the site of many bitter battles and under constant pressure from Wei after the Battle of the Red Cliffs. The war had grown so intense that many residents chose to migrate and resettle south of the Yangtze River. After Zhuge Liang's death, attacks in the southern
Huai River region increased but however, Wei was unable to break through the river's defensive line established by Wu, which included the Ruxu fortress. Sun Quan's long reign is considered a great time for his southern state. Migration from the north and shanyue settlements increased labor for
  griculture, especially along the yangtze's lower reach and in Commander Kuaiji along the southern coast of Hangzhou Bay. River transportation of the Zhedong and Jiangnan canals. Trade with Shu flourished, with the huge influx of Shu cotton and the development o
celadon and metal industries. Sea trips are made to Liaodong and the island of Taiwan. To the south, Wu merchants reached Linyi (South Vietnam) and the Kingdom of Funan. When the economy prospers, so does art and culture. In the Yangtze delta, the first Buddhist influence reached south from
Luoyang. The East Wu era was a formative period in Vietnamese history. A prefect of Jiaozhou (modern Vietnam as an autonomous warlord for forty years and was posthumously courted by later Vietnamese emperors. [57] Shi Xie pledged allegiance to East Wu.
Initially satisfied with East Wu's rule, Vietnam opposed Shi Hui's rebellion against East Wu and attacked him for it. However, when general Wu Lü Dai betrayed Shi Hui and executed the entire Shi family, the Vietnamese became very upset. In 248, the people of Jiaozhi and Jiuzhen commanders rebelled
East Wu sent Lu Yin to deal with the rebels. He managed to appease the rebels with a combination of threat and persuasy. But the rebels regrouped under the leadership of Lady Tris in Jiuzhen and renewed the rebels with a march in Jiaozhi. After Months of war he was defeated and killed himself. [58]
Wei's main article: Cao Wei In 226, Cao Pi died (aged 40) and was succeeded by his eldest son Cao Rui (aged 22). [59] Minister Chen Qun, General Cao Xiu, and General Sima Yiff] were appointed regents, although Cao Rui was able to manage the government in practice. [59]
Eventually all three died, leaving only Sima Yi as senior minister and military commander. [59] In 226, Sima Yi successfully defended Xiangyang against Wu's attacks; This battle was the first time he had command in the field. [60] In 227, Sima Yi was appointed to a post in Chang'an where she managed
military affairs along the Han River. [60] In 238, Sima Yi was dispatched to lead a military campaign against Gongsun Yuan of the self-proclaimed Yan Kingdom in Liaodong, which resulted in Sima Yi capturing his capital Xiangping and the massacre of his government. [60] Between 244 and 245, General
Guanqiu Jian was dispatched to attack Goguryeo and greatly destroyed the state. [60] Wei's northeastern border is now secured from possible threats. [60] The invasion, in retaliation for the Goguryeo invasion in 242, destroyed the Goguryeo capital Hwando, sent its king fleeing, and broke the tributary
relationship between Goguryeo and the other tribes in Korea that make up much of Goguryeo's economy. Although the king evaded capture and eventually settled in the new capital, Goguryeo was reduced to insignificant so that for half a century there was no mention of the state in the texts of Chinese
history. [61] Cao Zhi as depicted in the Goddess of the Luo River (detail) by Gu Kaizhi, Jin dynasty, China In 238, Cao Rui was succeeded by his adopted son Cao Fang (aged 7), who was a close member of the imperial family. [60] Cao Rui had appointed Cao Shuang
and Sima Yi to be Cao Fang's regents, although he had contemplated establishing a district council dominated by members of the imperial family. [60] Cao Shuang took ultimate control of the court. [60] Meanwhile, Sima Yi received the honorary title of Grand Tutor, but had virtually no influence in court.
[60] Reject and end the Three Kingdoms in 262, ahead of the conquests of Shu, Wei and Wu. Fall of The Main article Shu: The conquest of Shu by Wei After the death of Zhuge Liang, his position as chancellor fell to Jiang Wan, Fei Yi and Dong Yun, in that order. But after 258, Shu's politics became
increasingly controlled by the eunuch faction, led by Huang Hao, and corruption increased. Despite the energetic efforts of Jiang Wei, a protégé of Zhuge Liang, Shu was unable to secure a decisive achievement. In 263, Wei launched a three-pronged attack and the army forced to retreat generally from
Hanzhong. Jiang Wei hurriedly held a position in Jiange but he was dethed by Wei commander Deng Ai, who forcibly marched his troops from through areas previously considered unassessable. In the winter of this year, the capital Chengdu fell due to the strategic invasion of Wei by Deng Ai that attacked
Chenadu personally. Emperor Liu Shan surrendered. Shu state has ended after 43 years. Liu Shan was restored to Wei's capital, Luoyang and given the new title of Duke of Anle. Translated directly, it means Duke of Salvation and Happiness and is a trivial position without actual power. The fall of Wei
From the late 230s, tensions began to be seen between the Cao Empire clan and the Sima clan. After Cao Zhen's death, factionalism was evident between Cao Shuang and The Great Tutor Sima Yi. In deliberations, Cao Shuang placed his own supporters in important posts and excluded Sima Yi, who he
considered a dangerous threat. The power of the Sima clan, one of the great han dynasty families, was strengthened by Sima Yi is a very capable strategist and politician. In 238 he crushed the self-proclaimed Yan Gongsun Yuan Rebellion and brought the Liaodong
region directly under central control. In the end, he defeated Cao Shuang in a power play. Taking advantage of a visit by the imperial clan to Gaoping Tomb, Sima Yi performed a putsch in Luoyang, forcing Cao Shuang's faction from authority. Many protested against the extraordinary power of the Sima
family; famous among them is the Seven Sage Bamboo Clumps. One of the sages, Xi Kang, was executed as part of the purge after the fall of Cao Shuang. Cao Huan succeeded in ascending the throne in 260 after Cao Mao was killed in a failed coup against Sima Zhao. Soon after, Sima Zhao died and
her title as Duke of Jin was inherited by her son Sima Yan. Sima Yan soon began planning to become emperor but faced stiff opposition. Following the advisors, Cao Huan decided the best course of action was to abdicate, unlike his predecessor Cao Mao. Sima Yan seized the throne in 266
after forcing cao Huan's abdication, effectively overthrowing the Wei dynasty and establishing the Successor Dynasty of Jin. This situation is similar to the overthrow of Emperor Xian of Han by Cao Pi 40 years earlier. Article Fall of Wu Main: Jin Wu's conquest after Sun Quan's death and the ascension of
the young Sun Liang to the throne in 252, Wu's condition declined steadily. Wei's successful suppression of the rebellion in the southern Huai River region by Sima Zhao and Sima Shi reduced Wu's chances of influence. The fall of Shu marked a change in Wei politics. After Liu Shan surrendered to Wei,
Sima Yan (Sima Yi's grandson), overthrew the Wei emperor and proclaimed his own genie dynasty in 266, ending Cao's 46 years of rule in the north. After the genie rose, Emperor Sun from Wu died, and the ministers gave the throne to Sun Hao. Sun Hao was a promising young man, but after his
ascension he became a tyrant, killing or expelling all who dared to oppose him in court. In 269 Yang Hu, a Jin commander in the south, began preparing for wu's invasion by ordering the construction of a fleet and marine training in Sichuan under Wang Jun. Four years later, Lu Kang, Wu's last major
general, died leaving no competent successor. Jin's planned attack finally came in the late 279. Sima Yan launched five simultaneous attacks along the Yangtze River from Jianye (now Nanjing) to Jiangling while the Sichuan fleet sailed downstream to Jing Province. Under the strain of such a large attack
Wu's army collapsed and Jianye fell in the third month of 280. Sun Hao surrendered and was given fiefdom to live out his days. This marked the end of the Dreek in the heginning of a break in the next 300 years of division. Impact This section requires additional citations for verification.
Please help improve this article by adding citations to trusted sources. Unwarranted material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: Three Kingdoms – news · newspapers · books · undergraduate · JSTOR (December 2017) (Learn how and when to delete this template message) Pottery
Population living around a large, siheyuan page. Excavated in 1967 in a Hubei tomb built during the period of the East Wu kingdom, the National Museum of China, Beijing After the Yellow Turban Uprising, serious famine followed in the Central Plains of China. After coming to power
Dong Zhuo gave full swing to his army to plunder and pillage the population, and to kidnap women into forced marriages, maids or consorts. When the Guandong Coalition began a campaign against Dong Zhuo, he began a scorched earth campaign, declaring that all luoyang populations were forced to
move to Chang'an, all palaces, temples, official residences and houses were burned, no one should live within the area of 200 li. Given the death penalty for many, and the cries of discontent increased as luoyang's population declined sharply. When Cao Cao
attacked Xu Province, it was said that hundreds of thousands of men and women were buried alive, even dogs and chickens did not survive. Si River is blocked. Since then, these five cities have never recovered. [Citation needed] When Li Jue and his troops advanced towards guanzhong area, there
were still hundreds of thousands of people, but Li Jue allowed his troops to plunder cities and people, thus making people have nothing but to eat each other to death. [Citation needed] The following table shows a severe population decline during the period. From the late Han East to West Genie, West,
about 125 years long, the peak population is only equal to 35.3% of the peak population during the Eastern Han dynasty, the population never recovered. Militarization of high populations is common. For example, Shu's population is 900,000, but the
military number more than 100,000. The Records of the Three Kingdoms contain population figures for the Three Kingdoms. Like many of China's historical population figures, these numbers tend to be less than actual populations, because census and tax records go hand in hand, and refugee taxes are
often not on record. During the Three Kingdoms period (220–280 AD), a number of intermediate statuses between freedom and slavery were developed, but none of them were thought to have exceeded 1 percent of the population. [62] Three Populations of the Royal Period[63] Household Population of
the Eastern Han Dynasty Record Year, 156 10,679,600 56,486,856 Shu Han, 221 200,000 900,000 Shu Han, 263 280,000 1,082,000 At Shu's death, the population contains 102,000 armed soldiers and 40,000 various officers. Wu East, 238 520,000 2,567,000 East Wu, 280 530,000 2,535,000 At Wu's
death, the population had 32,000 officers, 230,000 soldiers, and 5,000 imperial concubines. Cao Wei, 260 663,423 4,432,881 West Jin dynasty, 280 2,495,804 16,163,863 After reuniting China, the largest Jin dynasty population around this time. While it is clear that wars undoubtedly took many lives
during this period, census figures do not support the idea that tens of millions were wiped out only from war. Other factors such as mass starvation and disease, due to the collapse of governance and continued migration out of China must be taken into account. Economy At the end of the Eastern Han
dynasty, due to natural disasters and social unrest, the economy was severely depressed, which caused massive waste of agricultural land. Some local landowners and aristocrats set up their own fortresses in self-defense and developed agriculture, which gradually evolved into an independent manorial
system. The castle and manor system also had an effect on the economical mode following the dynasty. In addition, due to the collapse of the imperial palace, the worn copper coins were not melted down and minimized and many personally minted coins appeared. In the Three Kingdoms period, newly
minted coins never entered the currency. Due to the collapse of the coin, Cao Wei officially declared silk cloth and grain as the main currency in 221. [64] In terms of the economy the division of the Three Kingdoms reflects a long-experienced reality. Even during the Northern Song dynasty, 700 years after
the Three Kingdoms period, it was possible to regard China as composed of three great regional markets. (The northwest status is a little ambivalent, as it has been with northern regions and Sichuan). This geographical division is underlined by the fact that the main communication routes between the
three main regions are all man-made: the Grand Canal connecting north and south, the transport road through the Three Yangtze River Gorges connecting southern China with Sichuan and the gallery road joining Sichuan with the northwest. The entry of three separate entities is quite natural and even
anticipated by political foresviews such as Zhuge Liang (see Plan Longzhong). Cao Cao's literature, the founder of the Wei kingdom and his four sons were influential poets, notably Cao Zhi (192–232) and Cao Pi (187–226). [65] Cao Pi wrote an early work on literary criticism, Essay on Literature. Cao Zhi,
along with Xu Gan, sponsored a revival of Jian'an's lyrical poetry style. Cao Zhi is considered by most modern critics to be the most important Chinese writer between Qu Yuan and Tao Yuanming. [66] Source Historiography A biographical fragment of Ms. Zhi from the Records of the Three Kingdoms, part
of the standard Dunhuang Manuscript of this period is the Three Kingdoms Record, compiled by the Western Genie historian Chen Shou in the third century CE. This work synthesizes the history of the rival countries of Cao Wei, Shu Han and Wu Timur in the Period of the Three Kingdoms into one
compiled text. An expanded version of the Records of the Three Kingdoms was published by the historian Liu Song Pei Songzhi in 429, whose annotations for the Records of the Three Kingdoms complemented the original with sle large text excerpts not used by Chen Shou and commented. The resulting
work is almost double the size of the original Records, [67] and Chen and Pei's composite work is canonized as official history (邇邇ฐ). [68] In addition to the Records of the Three Kingdoms, years 189 to 220 are also covered by the previous standard history of the Book of the Later Han by Fan Ye
(contemporary Pei Songzhi), which is primarily derived from Han court documents. [69] For the following years, biographies of the Jin dynasties Sima Yi, Sima Shi, and Sima Zhao were found only in the standard history of the Following Book of Jin by tang dynasty historian Fang Xuanling.
The issue of the legitimacy of traditional Chinese political thinking relates to the concept of the Heavenly Mandate, from which a ruler acquires the legitimacy to rule all under heaven. In the Three Kingdoms period, Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Wu Timur all claimed the Mandate based on their founders
declaring themselves emperors. Then historians will disagree on which of the Three Kingdoms (especially between Wei and Shu) should be considered the only legitimate successors to the Han dynasty. Chen Shou, the author of the Three Kingdoms Record, came from Shu Han and became an official
Jin Dynasty when he worked on Records. When the West Genie replaced Cao Wei, Chen was careful in his compilation to imply Cao Wei was a legitimate state. Despite the largely balanced and fair description of the event, [70] Chen Shou legitimized Wei by placing Wei annals first, using era names from
the Wei calendar, and ordering grand nomenclatures for Wei leaders. In particular, the emperor Cao Wei was called by their imperial posthumous name (for example. Cao Pi was referred to as the Civil Emperor 文取), while emperors Shu and Wu were mere rulers (for example. Liu Bei was named as the
First Ruler and 先吳 [68] Chen Shou, as Jin's subject, was unable to write in a way that implied Jin as illegitimate by denying Cao Wei's claim to the mandate, regardless of what sympathy he might have towards his home country of Shu. [71] Chen Shou's treatment of legitimacy issues was generally
accepted up to the Northern Song dynasty. While maintaining that none of the three states actually held the Heavenly Mandate because they all failed to unify China, historian Song Sima Guang used Wei-era names and thus asserted the legitimacy of Wei's succession to Han in its universal history Zizhi
Tongjian. [72] Sima Guang explained that her choice was simply out of comfort, and she did not respect one and treat the other with contempt, or make the distinction between orthodox and inter-candidacy positions. [72] Nevertheless, influential Neo-Confucius moralist Zhu Xi criticized Sima Guang's
choice, taking the position that Shu Han was the true successor of the Han dynasty since Liu Bei was associated with the Liu Imperial clan with blood, and thus used the Shu calendar in a rewrite of Sima Guang's Zizhi Tongjian Gangmu. [73] This position, first refuted by Xi Zuochi in the fourth century, [74]
found support in the Zhu Xi era since the Song dynasty found itself in a similar situation to the Shu Han, having been forced out of northern China by Jurchens in 1127 and known as the Southern Song. [75] The revised personal history at the time emphasized humane rule (賁) as a sign of legitimate
dynastic succession, and saw Liu Bei as the ideal Confucius king. [76] Pro-Shu bias later found its way into popular forms of entertainment such as pinghua fairy tales and zaju performances, and was eventually encoded in the 14th century historical novel Romance of the Three Kingdoms. [77] Heritage in
popular culture This section requires additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to trusted sources. Unwarranted material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: Three Kingdoms – news · newspapers · books · undergraduate · JSTOR (January 2018)
(Learn how to when to delete this template message) More information: List of romantic media adaptations Three Kingdoms, written
by Luo Guanzhong during the Ming dynasty. Perhaps because of the popularity of the Three Kingdoms Romance, the Three Kingdoms era is one of the most famous non-modern Chinese eras in terms of iconic characters, deeds and exploits. This is reflected in the way the fictional accounts of the Three
Kingdoms, based largely on novels, play an important role in East Asian popular culture. Books, television dramas, movies, cartoons, anime, games, and music on this topic are still produced regularly in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, and Southeast Asia. [78] See
also Battle of Hulao Pass End Game Han Dynasty of the Three Kingdoms Jian'an period poem Split List of people of the Three Kingdoms Rafe de Crespigny Six Dynasties Six Dynasty poetry Notes A Referring to the Han dynasty government Referring to the Yellow T Rebellionurban Book of Han -
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